Storage of foodgrains

†2779. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the storage of total available foodgrains, in the country;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the rotting of foodgrains in the stores; and

(c) if so, the details of the foodgrains which got rotten during the last five years, year-wise and the steps being taken by Government for its safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 28th February, 2007 the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total storage capacity of 252.25 Lakh MTs including hired capacity, for storage of foodgrains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The year-wise details of quantities which got damaged during the last 5 years are as under:—

Year	Quantity (In Lakh MTs)
2002-03	1.35
2003-04	0.76
2004-05	0.97
2005-06	0.95
2006-07	1.13

The details of the steps taken to preserve the stocks in storage and for preventing damaged foodgrains are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of the steps taken by the FCI to preserve the stocks in storage and for preventing damaged foodgrains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With a view to preserving the stocks in storage and preventing damage to foodgrains, the FCI has been taking the following steps:—

i. Ensuring that all its own godowns are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.

ii. Provision for adequate dunnage and plinth for storage of foodgrains in open in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage with covering of specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof sheets with proper lashing by nylon ropes/nets.

iii. Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns by qualified and trained staff.

iv. Undertaking of prophylactic and curative treatments of the stocks regularly.

v. Undertaking the pest control measures regularly.

vi. Implementation of the procedure of "First in, First out" (FIFO) to extent possible so as to avoid longer retention of stocks.

vii. Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means, *i.e.*, covered wagons, etc.

viii. Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.

ix. Improvement in dunnage material.

x. Policy guidelines has been issued to State Governments for proper storage and timely offtake of wheat stocks from getting damaged.

xi. Stocks of foodgrains are treated with malathion and deltamethrin as a preventive measures to arrest infestation regularly on fortnightly & quarterly basis respectively.

xii. Whenever infestation is noticed stocks are fumigated with Aluminum Phosphide, as a curative measures.

xiii. In order to guage the condition/health of stocks, they are classified and categorized, every fortnight by the Technical Assistance, which are supervised on monthly basis by his supervisory Manager (QC) in the depot.

xiv. To oversee, as to whether stocks are properly preserved and stored, Senior QC officers such as Asstt. Genl. Manager (QC) and Dy. Genl.

Manager (QC) also check the stocks once in a quarter and 10 depots in a month respectively under their respective jurisdiction.

xv. Apart from above, Area Manager of the FCI district, General Manager of the Region and Executive Director of the Zone also inspect 2 depots in a district, 2 depots in a region and at least one depot in the zone respectively once in a month.

xvi. All the Inspection Reports of the above mentioned officers are critically examined at Regional and Zonal level and closely monitored at the FCI, Hqrs. and action on any discrepancy/short fall observed in these reports are promptly taken.

Every case of occurrence of damaged foodgrains is invariably investigated and wherever stocks found damaged due to negligence on the part of officials, stern disciplinary action is taken.

It has, recently been decided that in case of accrual of more than one thousand metric tones of damaged foodgrain, in any region, the FCI Headquarter Vigilance Squad shall scrutinize reascns for accrual of such large scale damage to the foodgrains, for fixation of responsibility on the delinquent officers/officials.

Procurement and Import

2780. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated targets of quantities of wheat, rice and other cereals to be procured during the current procurement season for distribution through PDS to APL and BPL consumers respectively and for creating buffer-stock of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof highlighting its comparison with their procurements targeted and achieved in the related seasons since 2003;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to import wheat during the current year;

(d) if so, the volume of import targeted; and